OPNAVINST 2880.1A
N2N6
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OPNAV INSTRUCTION 2880.1A

From: Chief of Naval Operations

Subj: U.S. NAVY POLICY FOR ASSIGNMENT, MANAGEMENT, AND OPERATIONAL USE OF THE VARIABLE MESSAGE FORMAT UNIT REFERENCE NUMBERS

Ref: (a) MIL-STD-6017C, DoD Interface Standard, Variable Message Format, 31 May 2012
      (b) MIL-STD-2525D, Common Warfighting Symbology, 10 June 2014
      (c) CJCSI 3156.01A

1. Purpose. To provide the U.S. Navy policy regarding the assignment, management, and operational use of unit reference numbers (URN). This instruction has been revised due to the change in responsibility from Navy Cyber Forces to Navy Information Forces.

2. Cancellation. OPNAVINST 2880.1.

3. Applicability. This policy applies to all U.S. Navy organizations responsible for the use or input of URN as defined by the variable message format standard. Other agencies that utilize U.S. Navy systems or interface with U.S. Navy systems or applications and that may employ URNs, are required to formalize a memorandum of agreement with the U.S. Navy to assign sponsorship and accept this policy for URN management.

4. Background. Per reference (a), URNs are used by units in a variable message format interface to uniquely identify friendly military units, broadcast networks, and multicast groups. URNs facilitate the exchange of messaging and situational awareness information, particularly in low bandwidth tactical environments. URN information provides the foundation for address book information used in systems such as command and control personal computer, blue force tracker, and the Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System (AFATDS). Use of URNs in variable message format messaging enhances command and control, digitally aided close air support, the common tactical picture, and the common operational picture.

5. Policy. This policy complements the provisions of the variable message format message standard and is not intended to interfere with development and or maintenance of that standard. This policy addresses assignment and management of URNs for U.S. Navy assets.

a. <u>URN Assignments</u>

(1) Naval Information Forces (NAVIFOR) is designated as the Navy URN manager. As such, NAVIFOR is the command responsible for:

(a) Assigning, maintaining, and managing permanent Navy URNs; and

(b) Allocating spare URNs (emergency only).

(2) NAVIFOR is the Navy point of contact for all URN related information. Additionally, NAVIFOR will develop abbreviated names and symbology codes that will be located on the Navy database maintained at NAVIFOR, Department of Defense (DoD) Complex, Suffolk, VA.

(3) The Navy URN manager (NAVIFOR) permanently assigns URNs explicitly to the entities in subparagraphs 5a(3)(a) through 5a(3)(c).

(a) Line numbers (down to selected individual billet) and associated multiples thereof from the effective Standard Navy Distribution List, OPNAVINST 5400.45.

(b) Operational units identified as requiring URNs for tactical interoperability, (e.g., ships, aircraft squadrons, fleet operating forces, and forward deployed commands).

(c) Platforms with integrated devices operating over variable message format that cannot be uniquely identified by subparagraphs 5a(3)(a) or 5a(3)(b) (e.g., F/A-18).

(4) The Navy URN manager allocates blocks of URNs based on the size and mission of the unit.

(a) Air squadrons are assigned URN blocks based on the number of aircraft authorized per unit.

(b) Ships or boats that expect to be a participant in variable message format networks will be assigned a block of URNs (e.g., guided-missile destroyer (DDG), AFATDS, amphibious assault ship (multipurpose) (LHD), amphibious assault ship (general purpose) (LHA), dock landing ship (LSD), amphibious transport dock (LPD), and riverine).

(c) Construction and special operation forces that expect to be a participant in variable message format nets will be assigned a block of URNs (e.g., Seabees; explosive ordnance disposal; sea, air, land; civil affairs units).

(d) Navy personnel billeted with U.S. Marine Corps (USMC) commands will be assigned USMC URNs (e.g., chaplains, corpsmen, naval gunfire liaison officers).

(e) The individual blocks of URNs are further configured where the first URN is selected to represent the unit's commander, commanding officer, or officer in charge, provided a symbol per reference (b) can be determined.

(f) The remaining URNs of that block are considered spares and assignment will be determined on an as needed basis.

(g) Blue force tracker assignments will be managed through NAVIFOR, with fleet input.

(5) Use of "generic" or "default" URNs is prohibited. System administrators and others with responsibility for management of command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance systems will ensure devices are loaded with appropriately assigned URNs.

b. URN Management

(1) The U.S. Navy URN manager (NAVIFOR) will maintain a centralized repository for all U.S. Navy URNs. Through coordination, the repository will be updated as permanent until changes are published. NAVIFOR will synchronize to the central URN repository with the joint repository once it is established. In keeping with reference (b), the Navy central URN repository will develop a Web interface and structured query language capability, enabling authorized users to extract URN information as required. It will contain the six mandatory fields stipulated in the variable message format standard, per reference (a).

(2) NAVIFOR will publish the policies and procedures for updating, utilizing, and accessing the Navy central URN repository as described in reference (c).

(3) Each Navy unit will manage assignment of spare URNs from their allocated blocks subject to guidance from fleet commanders.

(4) NAVIFOR will appoint a U.S. Navy representative to the URN Joint Configuration Control Board.

(5) The Navy URN database is accessible via NAVIFOR Secret Internet Protocol Router Network share point portal hosted on the U.S. Fleet Forces server, https://cffo.fleetforces.navy.smil.mil/navifor/requirements/urn. Requests for assignments or updates can also be sent to Non-classified Internet Protocol Router Network e-mail: navifor_n824_urn_dbmanager@navy.mil or phone: (757) 203-3359/3372.
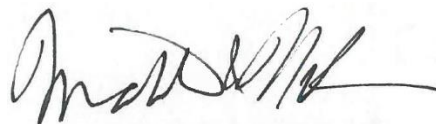
6. URN Dissemination. The U.S. Navy URN manager is responsible for coordination with U.S. Navy units and other combatant commanders, Services and agencies in order to develop unified operational dissemination procedures.

7. Records Management

    a. Records created as a result of this instruction, regardless of format or media, must be maintained and dispositioned for the standard subject identification codes 1000 through 13000 series per the records disposition schedules located on the Department of the Navy/Assistant for Administration (DON/AA), Directives and Records Management Division (DRMD) portal page at https://portal.secnav.navy.mil/orgs/DUSNM/DONAA/DRM/Records-and-Information-Management/Approved%20Record%20Schedules/Forms/AllItems.aspx.

    b. For questions concerning the management of records related to this instruction, or the records disposition schedules, please contact the local records manager or the DON/AA DRMD program office.

8. Review and Effective Date. Per OPNAVINST 5215.17A, the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Information Warfare (CNO N2N6) will review this instruction annually around the anniversary of its issuance date to ensure applicability, currency, and consistency with Federal, Department of Defense, Secretary of the Navy, and Navy policy and statutory authority using OPNAV 5215/40 Review of Instruction. This instruction will be in effect for 10 years, unless revised or cancelled in the interim, and will be reissued by the 10-year anniversary date if it is still required, unless it meets one of the exceptions in OPNAVINST 5215.17A, paragraph 9. Otherwise, if the instruction is no longer required, it will be processed for cancellation as soon as the need for cancellation is known following the guidance in OPNAV Manual 5215.1 of May 2016.

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Releasability and distribution:
This instruction is cleared for public release and is available electronically only via Department of the Navy Issuances Web site, http://doni.documentsservices.dla.mil.